

9/25/07

Ravalli County Commissioners
215 S. 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840

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SEP 27 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners

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Dear County Commissioners,

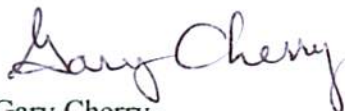
Recently, my wife and I discovered a deer carcass at the edge of the road on South Kootenai Creek Road near Sharrot Hill Loop. I called the Ravalli County Road Department and asked if they removed animal carcasses along County roads and was told they did not. I called Ravalli County Sheriff's Department and was told the same thing. I then contacted Montana Transportation Department and spoke with a young lady there who told me State transportation crews only pick up animal carcasses along State highways. I explained that the County didn't provide such a service and she seemed surprised.. She called the County to confirm what I told her then called me back. Since the carcass was little more than a half mile from Highway 93, she told me they would send someone out to remove the deer but "only just this one time." Two days later, they took care of the problem. I have to admit I considered picking the deer up with my tractor and taking it down to Highway 93 and dumping it along the road there, but decided it wasn't appropriate. It's the second of two dead deers we've had in our immediate neighborhood within the year.

My wife tells me over twenty people that she knows of walk around Sharrot Hill Loop and South Kootenai Creek Road on a daily basis for exercise. Decaying animal carcasses along the road kind of make those walking routines unpleasant. Given the large deer population in the Valley, it's a good bet that a lot of County residents regularly run in to the same problem. Understandably, it's part of living in a rural setting but there should be some way to dispose animal carcasses other than sneaking it down to the State highway or burying it in your pasture.

My hope is that you can address the issue by establishing a County service to dispose of dead animals along County roads or, perhaps, contract with the State to do so. I'm not certain but, I think the State disposes of animal carcasses at a facility in the County near Victor.

Please contact me if I can offer you any more information or be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,


Gary Cherry

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